



February	
February 1 st	Imbolc
February 4 th	Imbolc Ritual
February 5 th	Full Snow Moon 12:30 p.m. CDT
February 11 th	HON Grove

Imbolc



*I am She
that is the natural
mother of all things,
mistress and governess
of all the elements,
the initial progeny of worlds,
chief of the powers divine,
Queen of all that are in the otherworld,
the principal of them
that dwell above,
manifested alone
and under one form
of all the Gods and Goddesses.
- Lucius Apuleius*

Picture and Poem from <https://druidry.org/resources/brigid-survival-of-a-goddess>

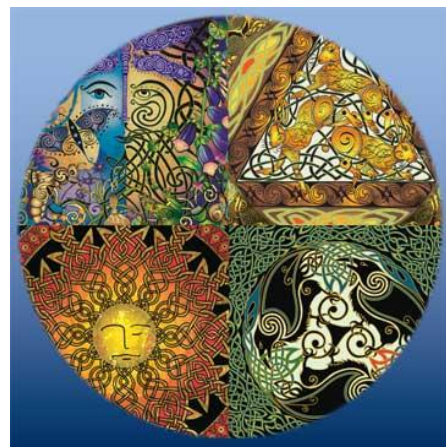
Grove Happenings



This month's grove meeting has a change of venue; this month only, we will be at the Unitarian Church, 8470 Goodwood Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, in Room 1 of the Fellowship Hall from 3:00–5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 11th.

There will be updates on Gulf Coast Gathering preparations as well and upcoming events, both here in the US and in the UK.

If you are unable to join us in person, we invite you to join us on Zoom. To join Zoom, go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88338465418?pwd=TjFJb1h6NmhzSzUrN0czTzFuRVlvQT09>
Meeting ID: 883 3846 5418
Passcode: 319206



Artwork by Jen Delyth



The Snow Full Moon

Sunday, February 5, at 12:30 p.m. CDT

February's full **Snow Moon** reaches peak illumination at **12:30 P.M. CDT on Sunday, February 5**. It will be below the horizon at this time, so for the best view of this Moon, look for it starting the night before or later on Sunday; it will drift above the horizon in the east around sunset and reach its highest point in the sky around midnight.

Why Is It Called the Snow Moon?

The explanation behind February's full Moon name is a fairly straightforward one: it's known as the Snow Moon due to the typically heavy snowfall that occurs in February. On average, February is the United States' snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service. In the 1760s, Captain Jonathan Carver, who had visited with the Naudowessie (Dakota), wrote that the name used for this period was the Snow Moon, "because more snow commonly falls during this month than any other in the winter."

Alternative February Moon Names

Names for this month's Moon have historically had a connection to animals. The Cree traditionally called this the Bald Eagle Moon or Eagle Moon. The Ojibwe Bear Moon and Tlingit Black Bear Moon refer to the time when bear cubs are born. The Dakota also

call this the Raccoon Moon, certain Algonquin peoples named it the Groundhog Moon, and the Haida named it Goose Moon. Another theme of this month's Moon names is scarcity. The Cherokee names of Month of the Bony Moon and Hungry Moon give evidence to the fact that food was hard to come by at this time.

Image and excerpts taken from The Farmer's Almanac 2023 Edition
<https://www.almanac.com/content/full-moon-february>
<https://www.almanac.com/astronomy/moon/calendar/LA/Baton%20Rouge/2023-02>



The Seven Gifts of Druidry

The sixth gift develops our Potential: Druidry as it is practiced today offers a path of self-development that encourages our creative potential, our psychic and intuitive abilities, and fosters our intellectual and spiritual growth.

Practicum:

In the spirit of the season, think about a new craft or artistic skill that you would like to learn for yourself. Or be a mentor to a young person in your community, either tutoring towards their daily schooling or an extra-curricular activity to encourage and help foster a chosen vocation or learning a new one, all the while helping in your own spiritual and creative growth.





IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

Independence Botanical Gardens

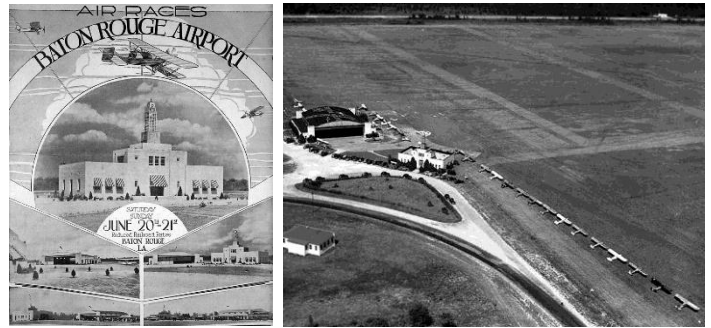


Photo from: <https://www.brec.org>

The Botanical Gardens at Independence Community Park welcome you to stroll through our pleasant surroundings to observe nature in Baton Rouge. The Gardens were begun in 1991 through initiatives of BREC and the Botanic Garden Foundation, and it is still a work in progress.

A Master Development Plan for the Botanical Gardens has been adopted by BREC and the Botanic Garden Foundation. It is being constructed in phases as funds become available. Volunteers, along with BREC Planning and Engineering, do much of the work in designing, planning and maintaining the gardens. BREC employs a landscape crew that maintains the grounds, working closely with the Botanic Garden Foundation.

A successful effort has been made to integrate the Independence Botanical Gardens and the grounds of the library, creating a vibrant space for people to enjoy nature. Special programs for adults and hands-on gardening activities for children are offered to provide recreational activities that build an appreciation of our southern environment.



http://www.airfields-freeman.com/la/airfields_la_batonrouge.htm

History of the Land

Independence Community Park was originally a part of Goodwood Plantation. It was purchased in 1931 by East Baton Rouge Parish and used as the Downtown Airport for 44 years and closed in 1975. The City-Parish Council designated a part of the original 200-acre site for a public park which opened in 1976. The 1988 revised Master Plan for the park proposed a 15-acre site within the dedicated park for the botanical gardens. The master plan was updated in 2015 and the latest phase of construction, including the Parterre Garden, Southern Walkway, and Butterfly Garden, was completed in 2018.

The Baton Rouge Botanic Garden Foundation

Following the establishment of the revised Master Plan in 1988, a collaboration of various plant societies, organizations, and garden clubs joined together to form what was known as the Botanic Garden Council and sponsored the development of the initial gardens now contained within the Botanical Gardens. The collaboration later organized and became incorporated in 1993 under the name of Friends of the Garden and in 2000 re-filed as The Botanic Garden Foundation at Independence Park. The Foundation, comprised of community volunteers, works in partnership with BREC to oversee the gardens, raise funds for development and provide educational opportunities for the public. The general public is welcome to attend any of the quarterly held meetings of the Board of Directors.



In The Garden

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD Cont.



The Iris Pavilion

Photo borrowed from www.brec.org/index.cfm/page/380/n/55

While we still have a bit of “winter” showing up every other week, it doesn’t mean you can’t start your planting. Here are some cool-weather plants and herbs you can start with: spinach, peas, onions, potatoes, lettuce, Swiss chard, beets, radishes, and carrots. Your cold-hardy herbs include chives, oregano, parsley, sage, cilantro, chamomile, dill, garlic, and fennel, just to name a few.

Because of Louisiana’s varying weather patterns throughout this time of year, it’s best to start all your veggies and herbs in smaller pots in the event of an extreme freeze to make moving them easier on you. It also helps prepare you for spring planting! Happy Gardening!

More To Come!

The Botanical Gardens is continuing to grow and improve. New and expanded gardens are included in the plans, but much is dependent on the availability of funding. Volunteers are always needed to work in the gardens. Become involved! Make a financial contribution of \$10 a year to become a member of the Friends of the Garden. For more information, please contact us at 225-928-2270 or info@brec.org.



Sensory Garden—Photo by Tim Mueller

Excerpt taken from www.brec.org/index.cfm/page/380/n/55



Final Thoughts

It’s amazing how time flies. It seems only yesterday when we started January and yet, here we are starting a new month.

As we prepare for Imbolc and the coming spring, it is a good time to reflect and take stock on personal happenings during the dark half of the year. Take time to meditate on your reflections, clear your mind, putting aside all doubts and fears and allowing only positivity and renewed light to enter in.

Yours Under the Sacred Oaks,
 Kate Kane Laborde /\



Grant, O Spirit, thy protection;
And in protection, strength;
And in strength, understanding;
And in understanding, knowledge;
And in knowledge, the knowledge of justice;
And in the knowledge of justice, the love of it;
And in that love, the love of all existences;
And in the love of all existences, the love of God,
Gods and Goddesses and all goodness!

